

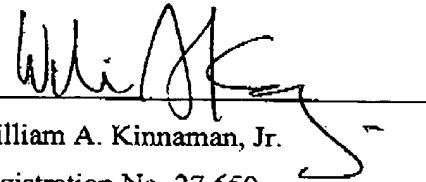
Remarks

Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the ranking value is determined based on "a purity value" (rather than "the purity in value") of a leaf node. Similarly, claim 14 has been amended to recite that the ranking value is determined based on "a number of records" of a leaf node, while claim 15 has been amended to recite that the ranking value is determined based on "a length" of a leaf node. Consistently with the previous Examiner's amendment, these changes use the indefinite article "a" where no express antecedent exists. Furthermore, claim 13 now uses the term ("purity value") that is used most often in the specification as well as in claims 6 and 7.

No new issues are believed to be raised by this amendment, since the changes are purely formal in nature. Accordingly, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.312 is believed to be proper and is requested by applicants.

Respectfully submitted,
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